THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had conducted searches at the residential and official premises of some officials of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in connection with contract for maintenance of National Highways from km 66 to 95 on National Highway No.-1. The details have not been received from the CBI.

To curb misuse and corruption, steps are taken as per Central Vigilance Commission Manual/Guidelines and Regulations of the NHAI.

Slow progress of the construction work on NH-57

†1754. SHRI MANGANl LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction work of NH-57 has been started partially but at very slow pace in Bihar on the East-West National Highway (Corridor) under the National Highways Development Project;

(b) whether it is a fact that the construction work on the bridges to be constructed on Kosi river, Bhutahi Balan river and Kamala river on NH-57 has not started so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by when completion of construction work of four/six laning of NH-57 alongwith the bridges has been targeted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The construction of 4-laning work in Muzaffarpur-Purnea Section of NH-57 (Except Kosi Bridge in km. 155 to km 165.00) which forms part of East West Corridor under National Highways Development Project (NHDP), Phase-ll has already been started after mobilization of required resources by the contractors for their respective packages. In the beginning, pace of work was slow, as the contractors were facing difficulties in mobilizing their resources.

(b) and (c) The construction of Kosi Bridge including approaches, guide bunds/afflux bunds, etc, is targeted to start by April 2007. Four laning

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

packages include major bridges across Bhutahi Balan River and Kamala River, are targeted for completion by December, 2008.

(d) The four/six laning work of Muzaffarpur-Purnea Section of NH-57 (except Kosi Bridge) is targeted to be completed by December 2008 and the construction of Kosi Bridge including approaches is targeted by March 2010.

Four laning of national highways

†1755. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction work from Jhanjharpur to Phoolparas to Narhia under NH-57 on East-West route to be constructed as four-lane road under National Highways Development Programme in Bihar has started, the progress of which is very slow and from the point of view of quality, the construction work is not being done according to the' prescribed norms; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHR! K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The four laning of Jhanjharpur to Phoolparas to Narhia Section of NH-57 in Bihar under East West Corridor has already been started during March, 2006. In the begining, pace of progress of work was slow as the contractor was facing difficulties in mobilizing resources. Supervision consultant has been engaged by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for supervising the quality of works in this project by conducting relevent tests and checks as per prescribed norms. Project Director also conducts regular inspection as well as periodic checks for ongoing projects to ensure quality of the works.

Headgear for two wheeler riders in villages

1756. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to legal anomaly in section 129 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, persons living in the small villages,

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.